

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 7-9 and cancel claims 8, 14 and 15 without prejudice or admission as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous listings and versions of claims.

1. (previously presented) A printer, comprising:
  - a platen roller for conveying a recording sheet,
  - a print head arranged opposite the platen roller, a drive unit for rotating the platen roller, and
  - a main frame, including a pair of side walls that rotatably support the platen roller, wherein the drive unit includes
    - a motor for outputting a rotational force,
    - idler gears for transmitting the rotational force outputted by the motor to the platen roller, and
    - a gear fitting member integrally formed with gear support shafts that support the idler gears;
  - the motor and idler gears are capable of being mounted in the main frame while attached to the gear fitting member; and
  - a drive gear of the motor and the idler gears are stored in a space defined by the gear fitting member and one of the side walls of the main frame; wherein

the motor is attached through a flange member to the gear fitting member, and an engagement groove that is fitted in the distal end of one of the gear support shafts is formed in the flange member.

2. (previously presented) A printer according to claim 1, in that wherein the gear fitting member is formed of an alloy material by die casting.

3. (previously presented) A printer according to claim 2, wherein the alloy material is a zinc alloy, a magnesium alloy or a titanium alloy.

4.-5. (canceled).

6. (previously presented) A printer according to claim 1, wherein the print head is a thermal head in which a plurality of heat generating members are arranged in a line.

7. (currently amended) A printer, comprising:  
a main frame having two spaced-apart opposed side walls;  
a platen roller rotatably supported by the two side walls;  
a print head disposed opposite the platen roller; and  
a preassembled drive unit mounted in a preassembled state to one of the side walls for rotationally driving the platen roller, the preassembled drive unit comprising a support

member integrally formed with gear support shafts, a rotary motor supported by the support member and having a drive gear, the rotary motor having a connecting flange by which the rotary motor is connected to the support member, the connecting flange having an opening in which is fitted a distal end of one of the gear support shafts, and idler gears rotatably mounted on respective gear support shafts for transmitting rotational movement of the drive gear to the platen roller, the drive gear and the idler gears being disposed in a space defined by the gear support member and the one side wall.

8. (canceled).

9. (currently amended) A printer according to ~~claim 8~~ claim 7; wherein the support member is a die-cast structure.

10. (previously presented) A printer according to claim 9; wherein the die-cast support member is formed of a zinc alloy, a magnesium alloy or a titanium alloy.

11. (previously presented) A printer according to claim 7; wherein the print head is a thermal head having heat generating members arranged in a line.

12. (previously presented) A printer according to claim 7; wherein the support member has a first section to which the rotary motor is mounted, and a second section offset from the first section and from which the gear support shafts extend.

13. (previously presented) A printer according to claim 7; wherein the support member is formed of a resin material.

14.-15. (canceled).